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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

IN REPLY REFER TO:

November 15, 1994

The Honorable James L. Oberstar
U.S. House of Representatives
2366 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Attention: Neil Weinstein

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Congressman Oberstar:

Thank you for contacting us on behalf of Mr. Rod McCulley, Acting Secretary, West Central Minnesota Jail Administrators Association, regarding the Commission's Billed Party Preference (BPP) proceeding. On May 19, 1994, the Commission adopted a Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in this proceeding. I have enclosed a copy of the Further Notice and press release accompanying it for your information.

The Further Notice sets forth a detailed cost/benefit analysis of BPP. This analysis indicates, based on the available data, that the benefits of BPP to consumers would exceed its costs. The Further Notice sought comment on this analysis and asked interested parties to supplement the record concerning the costs and benefits of BPP. The Further Notice also invited parties to recommend alternatives to BPP that could produce many of the same benefits at a lower cost.

The Further Notice also explicitly sought comment on whether correctional facility telephones should be exempt if BPP is adopted. Specifically, the Further Notice sought additional information on the effectiveness and costs of controlling fraud originating on inmate lines with or without BPP. The Further Notice also sought comment on a proposal to exempt prison telephones from BPP if the operator service provider adheres to rate ceilings for inmate calling services.

BPP would not preclude prison officials from blocking or limiting inmate calls to specific telephone numbers in order to prevent threatening and harassing calls. Moreover, BPP would not affect the ability of prison officials to limit inmates to collect calling or to program telephone equipment at the prison site to block certain numbers.

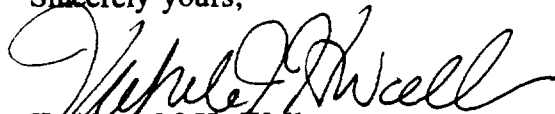
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The Honorable James L. Oberstar
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Reply comments were due September 14, 1994. Presently, the Commission is evaluating the comments submitted and considering the implementation of BPP along with other options. I can assure you that the Commission will carefully examine all of the comments submitted in response to the Further Notice, including additional empirical data regarding the costs and benefits of implementing BPP and the impact of BPP on telephone service from correctional facilities.

Thank you for your forwarding Mr. McCulley's correspondence to us and for your interest in this proceeding.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Kathleen M.H. Wallman', written in a cursive style.

Kathleen M.H. Wallman
Chief
Common Carrier Bureau

Enclosures

DLA
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FAX TRANSMISSION SHEET

FROM: OFFICE OF REP. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

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COMMENTS

WEST CENTRAL MINNESOTA
JAIL ADMINISTRATORS ASSN.

July 27, 1994

James Oberstar
Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20535

Congressman Oberstar:

The West Central Jail Administrators Association is a group of Jail Administrators who meet on a regular basis to discuss jail issues. This group has approx. 25 counties in its membership. We are very concerned about the possibility of "Party Preference" becoming a reality. As a group we can foresee several problems that could be caused by this BPP bill. The most serious ones are 1) no longer being able to put a lock on a line. This means that inmates could call in their family members and lockups would have no control over the revenue to lockups would be lost. This could become more of a problem. The in-place system need to be changed?

We are very concerned about "Party Preference" and encourage you to take action.

Sincerely,

Bob McCulley
Voting Sec. WCJAA

cc/ file

WEST CENTRAL MINNESOTA
JAIL ADMINISTRATORS ASSN.

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